

would steal him away. That caused me a lot of difficulty over the years, but still we trained a lot of people.

This is what business has to do. It has to take a larger view of the marketplace and say: "The success of my business is not that labour contract that I signed or the fringe benefits that I give to the workers, but it is going to be skills that I can impart to my workers, that I can continue to upgrade them so I can go out and actively bid for more work for my type of business". That is what we are endeavouring to do. We cannot do it all at once. This is a giant step forward in our labour training with Bill C-21, and that is what I was trying to express in the comments that I made.

We still have a long way to go but if the Senate will get off their—as I said to one of my colleagues, what we should do is cut off their Geritol and double the Metamucil. Maybe they would move a little faster, get that Bill C-21 passed and get it into operation.

Mr. Robert E. Skelly (Comox—Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the member for Etobicoke North for presenting this resolution which deals with his non-confidence in the government because it has failed to bring about full employment, to improve our international competitiveness and also in accordance with the principles of sustainable development.

I listened to most of the debate that went on in the House on this resolution. I think that Canada could learn a great deal from some of the countries in northern and western Europe. The member who previously spoke talked about eastern Europe, but I do not think there is much of a comparison there between Canada and eastern Europe. I think that we can learn a great deal from what has gone in terms of labour force development in countries of northern and western Europe where they have in many cases far stronger economies than ours, far more diversified economies than ours and also far lower unemployment rates, so they seem to have an advantage in all three of those areas.

Another way they have an advantage is that many of these countries have a long tradition of social democratic institutions that have been left in place by successive social democratic governments, whether you are talking

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about Germany, The Netherlands or the Scandinavian countries. The economies of those countries seem to be based on the fact that the economy exists to serve the people rather than the people being there to serve the economy. I think that Canada can learn a great deal from that principle.

When I heard the Minister of State for Small Businesses and Tourism discussing the programs he has in his department, he did not seem that much concerned about the actual people who work in those industries. He talked about programs to generate exports. He talked about programs directed toward businesses that they could use in order to develop exports overseas, but he did not really talk about the people and I think it is the people that this motion is concerned about. When we talk about unemployment, we are talking about people who experience unemployment, people who want to get back to work, and that is a serious problem in the Canadian economy.

The same thing was true in the speech of the member for Burlington that again talk about programs and talk about statistics and talk about numbers, but I think we have to deal with the actual problem of unemployment as people in Canada face it because it is a serious problem. I think there are mechanisms and models that we can look at in northern and western Europe that we can learn from and that are adaptable to our situation here in North America and that may help us reduce our unemployment with something along the same lines as what happens in northern Europe.

I was looking at a comparison in *The Economist* magazine between unemployment in Canada in July, which was at about 8.1 per cent, with unemployment in Sweden, which was at about 1.6 per cent, so there is a substantial difference. When the member for Burlington talks about perhaps 4 per cent being full employment in Canada, there are some countries that have bested that figure. I think that we could take a close look at the models that they have presented to see how adaptable they are to Canada. I think we might find that 4 per cent as a full employment figure, as the hon. member for Burlington suggested, may be far too high and we could employ even more Canadians.